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Attention: Nancy Rumrill
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-3-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Draft Class III Underground Injection Control Area Permit for Florence Copper, Inc

Dear Ms. Rumrill:

This letter of comment is being submitted regarding the proposed issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III Permit to Florence Copper, Inc.

I understand that the permit, if issued, will allow Florence Copper, Inc. to construct and operate an in-situ copper recovery facility in the Town of Florence. The proposed permit would authorize Florence Copper, Inc. to operate a Production Test Facility (PTF) on approximately two acres for a period of up to two years, followed by post-closure monitoring of up to five years following closure operations.

From an economic perspective, there is little doubt that should Florence Copper, Inc. begin full-scale operations, the project would provide much needed employment to the local communities as well as a positive economic benefit to the town, county and state. The anticipated employment impact is 240 direct and indirect jobs on-site, 480 jobs in Pinal County and nearly 800 jobs in Arizona. These head-of-household wage jobs, provided by the mining industry are particularly important to rural Arizona. The projected fiscal benefit of \$68.4 million dollars in revenue to the Town of Florence, \$2.1 billion in economic activity for Pinal County and \$3.4 billion in economic activity for the State of Arizona, would provide much needed revenue.

This test facility provides an ideal opportunity for Florence Copper, Inc. to prove to the local community, as well as the State of Arizona, that their operations are done safely and in compliance with all existing laws, and that these operations will not cause any adverse effects to local aquifers.

I support the issuance of the EPA Underground Injection Control Class III Permit to Florence Copper, Inc. Thank you for your fair and thoughtful analysis of this proposal. As always, I ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with the existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress